

standpoint, I admire Reid Gustafson very much for this dedication to the people of Santa Clara County.

Mr. Gustafson's extensive community involvement includes serving as the current chairman of the Board of Directors of the San Jose Symphony. Mr. Gustafson also serves on the board of directors of the San Jose Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, and is a past chairman of the board of managers for the central branch of the YMCA in Santa Clara County.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to honor Mr. Gustafson for the very important role he has played in raising funds for many outstanding community based programs. Through Shea Holmes, Mr. Gustafson has played an integral part in supporting such worthy organizations as the Boy Scouts of Santa Clara County, the YMCA Current Support Campaign, the Crippled Children's Society and the new Children's Shelter of Santa Clara County.

Throughout his career, Mr. Gustafson has served on numerous building industry associations, and has helped to shape the planning of numerous homes and communities throughout California. He has served as the past chairman of the board of directors of the Building Industry Association of northern California, and has also served on the boards of both the State and National Homebuilders' Association. In addition, Mr. Gustafson has served as a commissioner on the Bay Vision 20/20 Taskforce, a key regional planning body in northern California.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to invite you and my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join with me in expressing gratitude and appreciation to Reid Gustafson for his efforts to make our community a better place. I also would like to thank the Santa Clara Council of the Boy Scouts of America for their outstanding leadership in our community, and for giving me the opportunity to share in their recognition of Reid Gustafson as the 1995 Distinguished Citizen Award recipient.

THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF  
HOLY CROSS POST NO. 417  
CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 15, 1995*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Catholic War Veterans, Holy Cross Post 417 in Trenton, NJ on the 50th anniversary of their founding.

Mr. Speaker, in the fall of 1945, shortly after the surrender of Japan, the young men of Holy Cross Parish, like young men all across the country including my dad who was a combat veteran in the South Pacific began returning from the Armed Forces. At a young age they had stood up to aggression and prevailed. Now they were home, and anxious to get on with their lives that had been interrupted by tyranny. Monsignor Francis Kasproicz, pastor of Holy Cross Parish took a great interest and concern for the young veterans. So he granted permission to have a Catholic War Veterans Post formed in the Parish. This interest in our returning servicemen led to the founding of Catholic War Veterans, Holy Cross Post 417.

Over the years, Post 417 has opened membership to all those who served in the Armed Forces during World War II, the Korean and Vietnam wars, and beyond. During those years they have been honored for having the largest membership of any post in New Jersey. Others have fallen by the roadside, but Post 417 continues to serve the veterans, not only in Holy Cross Parish, but in all of Mercer County, NJ.

That service is found in the Post Catholic Action and Americanism programs which are year round efforts. Post 417's Palm Sunday Breakfast, Wafer Supper, Fifth Sunday Corporate Communion, Memorial Day Mass, Veterans and Pearl Harbor Day Services are annual events. A Christmas party and an Easter egg hunt are also held yearly for the children of members of the Post as well as the children of auxiliary members.

The Welfare Program also plays an important role in Holy Cross Post 417. Members give of their time to visit disabled veterans at the VA home in Menlo Park, NJ. Often they will play bingo and provide refreshments during their visits with the veterans. The Post holds an annual Cross of Peace collection and they send cards to sick veterans.

The Post organized a Ladies Auxiliary in 1949. They have grown to become not only the largest auxiliary in the State, but also the largest auxiliary in the Nation. The members of Post 417 are well aware that their programs would not be possible without the assistance of their impressive auxiliary.

Mr. Speaker, many influential voices on the American scene today are of the opinion that the United States' greatest ailment is not a lack of wealth, or opportunity. Rather, they see a breakdown in the communal bonds that give people a sense of belonging in an otherwise uncertain and often hostile world. Few would argue with these voices that a sense of community is essential to a cohesive society. Obviously the family must provide the primary bulwark—grounding the individual with a sense that they are not alone in the world. But it is difficult for the family alone to enrich life with the kind of meaning and fraternity we all crave. Certainly careers and Government services can not fill the void either. It is precisely organizations such as Catholic War Veterans, Holy Cross Post 417 which best link us all with the larger community that exists beyond our homes and individual lives.

Post 417, by their long record of involvement in our community is a model of exactly the type of organization which brings us all together in a stable and free society. The service and fellowship they provide to each other, as well as numerous other veterans of our Nation's armed conflicts, certainly yield countless benefits to us all as members of the human family and residents of central New Jersey. We are all truly blessed for their 50 years of service to, as their motto proclaims, God, Country, and Home.

Catholic War Veterans, Holy Cross Post 417, I salute you and all your members both living and deceased on your first half-century of service and wish you the best of success for the many, many years your future surely holds.

FINALLY, BUSINESS AS UN-USUAL

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 15, 1995*

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, let's cut right through the political fog and rhetoric and take a good, objective look at what is actually driving the budget impasse and showdown we are currently embroiled in with President Clinton. The heart of the debate boils down to ideology and principles. Are we going to reign in the role of the Federal Government or not? It has been 40 long years of Democrat rule in the House of Representatives. In that time, the welfare state has ballooned out of control because the answer to all the societal problems is to spend more, more, more.

Well, Mr. Speaker, all we need to do is look at the indisputable facts. As Federal spending skyrocketed, so too has crime and violent crime, drug use, illegitimate children, fatherless homes, and the number of welfare recipients. These trends are indicative of the degree to which the very fabric of American ideals have been shredded. But what was it that actually ripped and tore at the core principles and values upon which this Nation was founded? Clearly, the policies of the welfare state are at the root of this destruction. Now, the only questions that remain are what made the welfare state such a failure and how do we fix it.

This is the crux of the current debate and what makes this moment truly historic. The overwhelming majority of the American public can tell you that the root cause is the inherent message of the welfare state that people not only can get, but deserve, something for nothing. Even President Clinton knows this is the popular opinion. He campaigned on real welfare reform and being tough on crime and drugs yet this week he has said he will veto the Republican proposal to bring real reform to the welfare state and the facts show that drug use is on an undeniable upswing. He has said he is for a balanced budget but now he refuses to even commit to one, yet alone act on it. Why? Because in reality, he is entrenched in this failed ideology along with all the leftist leaders of the Democrat Party. He is entrenched in this bureaucratic mindset which resists change at all costs, even when the American public recognizes and has demanded such change. That's why people are leaving the party in droves.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed unfortunate that political pandering, class warfare and outright scare tactics are the only responses they have left because their only core principles are tax and spend. However, I would like to submit to the RECORD an editorial from the Wall Street Journal of November 13, 1995, which cuts right to the chase. I hope we can all take their lead and keep an eye on the real debate because it is a truly momentous period in American history.

[From the Wall Street Journal, Nov. 13, 1995]

REVIEW AND OUTLOOK—AT LAST, A CHOICE

So President Clinton vows to shut down the federal government tomorrow if Republican majorities in Congress don't bow to his budget will. Well, be our guest. By all means, let's shut down "non-essential" parts of the government and see if anyone cares.

At least a shutdown might focus Americans, and maybe even a bored media, on the